

## MEETING MINUTES

### ACT 264 Advisory Board/Children's SPSC Joint Meeting

SKYPE ONLY

March 27, 2020

**DRAFT**

**MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:** Joanne Crawford

<u>Agenda Items</u>	<u>Discussion Points</u>	<u>Decisions/Actions</u>
<b>Joint ACT 264 Advisory Board &amp; Children's State Program Standing Committee Meeting (10:00-11:45)</b>		
<b>Act 264 Advisory Board members of the phone:</b> Alice Maynard, Matt Wolf, Heather Freeman, Cinn Smith		
<b>SPSC members on the phone:</b> Laurie Mulhern, Ward Nial, Cinn Smith, Ron Bos Lun		
<b>Guests:</b> Cheryle Wilcox-DMH, Christina Thompson-DMH, Sandy Yandow - Vermont Federation of Families, Joanne Crawford - DMH, Jessica Bernard - DMH		
Cheryle Wilcox – IFS Update and COVID-19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. State offices are still open, but anyone wishing to enter the building must answer screening questions posted to the door. Most Department of Mental Health (DMH) employees are now working from home. The Leadership Team meets daily to discuss the needs of and updates to the mental health system. To help with the current situation, the federal government is loosening some of the HIPAA regulations in order to ensure continued services to those in need. The DMH website has the latest COVID-19 updates and guidance being put out by the department and the Agency of Human Services (AHS)</li><li>2. In Vermont residential programs all children who could be moved out have been relocated to their family's homes. Brattleboro Retreat is still taking referrals but not from out-of-state. DMH is working to keep Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH) and Middlesex facilities staffed. DMH Commissioner Sarah Squirrel and Department of Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) Commissioner Monica Hutt have weekly calls with directors at Designated Agencies (DAs). Both the DMH and the DAIL are working to ensure there are family respite funds available. AHS is also working to ensure childcare is available for essential workers. Auburn Watersong sent out guidance and information for workers and providers regarding wellness and selfcare. The Department of Health Access (DHVA) is receiving a lot of questions from DAs regarding funding needs.</li><li>3. There is concern for kids coming home from out-of-state placements to fewer supports - everyone recognizes this and is working hard to put supports in place where possible.</li><li>4. Woodside is being outfitted as an inpatient psychiatric facility for clients experiencing mild symptoms from COVID-19 during this crisis.</li></ol>	
Jessica Bernard – DMH Quality and Designation Activities at Das update	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Following the guidance of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Joint Commission on the Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) the Department of Mental Health is pausing Quality activities. Redesignation reports will not be finalized and no decisions will be communicated with designated agencies until the state of emergency is over. Quality will still be sharing information with the SPSCs and drafting documents, but upcoming designation expirations have been extended by three months. Right now, DAs need to focus on the needs of their clients. Minimum</li></ol>	

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	Standards Chart Reviews are also being paused, which may mean a log jam of designation reviews later. The Quality Team will continue to evaluate what is happening and the designation schedule. 2. DHVA is looking into the possibility of reimbursement for telehealth by working with federal Medicaid and the availability of additional billing codes. Most services that can be done over the phone will be covered.	
Review February Minutes	1. The group reviewed the February meeting minutes. Alice abstained because she was not present for the February meeting. Cinn made a motion to approve the minutes, Matt seconded. Vote unanimous to approve.	
Public Comment	1. There was no public comment.	
	<b>Break (11:30-12:15)</b>	
<b>State Program Standing Committee (SPSC) Meeting (12:15-2:00 pm)</b>		
<b>Phone:</b> Laurie Mulhern, Ward Nial, Cinn Smith, Ron Bos Lun <b>Guests:</b> Christina Thompson - DMH, Jessica Bernard – DMH, Joanne Crawford - DMH, Julie Pagliccia – UCS Director of Youth and Family Services and Northshire Services, Amy Fela – UCS Director of Operations, Kheya Ganguly – UCS Assistant Director of Youth and Family Services, Keili Trottier – UCS Family Services Clinician, Bob Wubbenhorst – UCS Manager of School Based Services for Bennington County and Youth and Family Services in Manchester		
Distribute United Counseling Services (UCS) Designation questions	1. The committee divided the questions amongst themselves to ask the agency and decided to start by asking how UCS is delivering services in light of COVID-19.	
UCS Designation Meeting	1. The committee asked their prepared questions for the UCS representatives present on the phone.	
Agency Designation Decision	1. Once the UCS representatives left the meeting, the group discussed the information gathered. 2. Unanimously, the redesignation recommendation from the Children’s SPSC for UCS is redesignation with minor deficiencies.	
Adjournment	1. The meeting was adjourned at 2:08.	